

CLAIMS

WE CLAIM:

1. A child safety lock for lever door handles of a type having a rotatable shaft extending from a door and a lever extending radially from the handle shaft, the child safety lock comprising;
 - a lever grip engaging a portion of the lever;
 - 5 a fulcrum element attached to the lever grip to be positioned proximate to the shaft as a fulcrum;
 - at least one arm having a first end attached to the fulcrum element and extending radially therefrom to a second end sized to interfit with a stationary door structure;
 - 10 whereby a force of rotation of the lever in an unlocking direction may be conducted by the lever grip through the fulcrum element against the shaft and through the arm to the stationary door structure.
2. The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the arm is sized so that the second end interfits against a door jam adjacent to the door handle when the door is closed.
3. The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the fulcrum element is a collar surrounding the shaft.
4. The child safety lock of claim 3 wherein the collar includes at least a first and second collar portion openable for insertion of the shaft within the collar.
5. The child safety lock of claim 4 wherein the collar includes at least one latch for releasably retaining the collar closed about the shaft after the shaft is inserted into the collar.
6. The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the collar includes space filling elements allowing an opening of the collar to conform to shafts of different diameter.

7. The child safety lock of claim 6 wherein the space filling elements are spring fingers extending inward from an inner edge of the collar to flexibly press against the outer circumference of the shaft.
8. The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the arm includes a release allowing it to be displaced from interfitting with a stationary door structure for rotation of the lever.
9. The child safety lock of claim 8 wherein an operator of the release extends from an upper side of the safety lock when the safety lock is on the door.
10. The child safety lock of claim 8 wherein the arm includes a pivot and the release is a catch preventing pivoting of the arm except when the catch is released.
11. The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever grip is a loop surrounding the lever.
12. The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever grip is asymmetric about a plane perpendicular to an axis of the shaft and wherein the lever grip may be rotated about a radial axis for use with lever handles on either side of a door.
13. The child safety lock of claim 1 including a second arm extending radially from the fulcrum to a second end sized to interfit with a stationary door structure.
14. The child safety lock of claim 13 wherein the first arm includes a release allowing it to be displaced from interfitting with a stationary door structure for rotation of the lever upward only.
15. The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein the lever grip, fulcrum element, and arm are polymer materials.
16. The child safety lock of claim 1 wherein arms have feet portions that ride against front surface of door.